

STORIES OF THE DIAMOND

Ira Thomas Tells of Some of the Duties Connected With Backstop Job.

STUDY BATTER'S POINTS

First Class Receivers Invaluable to Pitchers—Cool Head and Good Memory Needed.

No. XIII.
By IRA THOMAS.
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Would I advise any youngster to take up catching in preference to any other position on a ball team? Well, no—not unless the chap himself is wrapped up in the position and finds that he can play there better than any other place. Catching comes natural to some men, and unless a player feels that he is intended by nature to become a backstop he should not tackle the position or he will not rise above the ordinary.

Besides being the hardest worker on the team, his position is the most dangerous on the ball field. In order to be a successful pad and mask artist one must require a cool, clear head and an intimate knowledge of the game. He must know the strength and weakness of every batter; he must possess a good arm and a brain capable of outguessing the other chaps.

The knowledge of the batter's weakness gives the catcher a great advantage, for he can tip off to the pitcher just where and what to throw. He knows how many balls it is safe to waste in lying in wait for a runner to steal before trying for the man at the bat. He can often force the bat-



Photo by American Press Association.
IRA THOMAS, STAR CATCHER OF PHILADELPHIA AMERICANS.

ter to go after bad balls by keeping the pitcher working the ball across the corners or just outside.

Of course this is not always possible, and it is the knowledge that lets him go just far enough that helps distinguish the stars from the mediocre backstops. Having the entire field before him, the catcher is in a position to tip off every play to the infield and generally signals for every defensive play made by his team. If he is really a great backstop he is of material assistance to his pitcher, for when the latter gets wobbly, as is frequently the case, a wise backstop can steady him and frequently pull out of a bad hole.

Pointer for Youngsters.
Youngsters just breaking into the game will do well to make a study of every man that goes to bat. Find out his weak points, study his attitude at the bat, and as every little incident comes up jot it down in your little book for the future.

Many times a catcher has been severely censured because some speedy fellow has stolen a base. To the on-looker the backstop is at fault. There are many times that the catcher is at fault, but now and again it's on the pitcher. It's up to a twirler to keep a base runner close to the base. If the pitcher allows too much of a start the best throw in the world cannot stop him. Catchers make bad throws occasionally, but they would make very few if the base runners were held close to the bases and the throws did not have to be made in a hurry.

Long Motorboat Race Planned.
The Pacific International Motorboat association announces that arrangements are practically completed for the first big race of this kind in the northwest. The boats will race from Seat-

Ed Walsh Forswears Reading.
They are telling this story on "Big Ed" Walsh, the Chicago American's star pitcher, who batted poorly last season. A number of Comiskey's players were sitting in a hotel in Washington when a visiting Chicago fan who thought to do Walsh a favor handed the pitcher a Chicago paper with a story more or less complimentary to him.
"Thanks," said Walsh to his friend, "but I have sworn off reading. It isn't good for a fellow's batting."
"My, but what a lot of reading you must have done last season!" replied the obliging fan.

tle, Wash., to Ketchikan, southeastern Alaska, next August, and cups and cash prizes worth \$7,000 will be offered. The race will be an annual event, like those between Philadelphia and Havana and New York and Bermuda.

STANDING OF LEAGUES

THREE-EYE LEAGUE			
W.	L.	Pct.	
Springfield	39	15	.722
ROCK ISLAND	31	23	.574
Peoria	32	25	.561
Waterloo	32	26	.552
Bloomington	37	30	.474
Dubuque	23	36	.390
Davenport	22	35	.386
Danville	20	36	.357

NATIONAL LEAGUE			
W.	L.	Pct.	
Chicago	39	21	.650
New York	37	22	.627
Pittsburg	31	27	.534
Cincinnati	31	30	.508
Philadelphia	29	31	.483
St. Louis	29	35	.453
Brooklyn	25	34	.424
Boston	22	43	.338

AMERICAN LEAGUE			
W.	L.	Pct.	
Philadelphia	40	21	.656
New York	36	23	.610
Detroit	33	28	.576
Boston	32	28	.533
Cleveland	26	29	.473
Chicago	26	33	.441
Washington	25	38	.397
St. Louis	18	41	.305

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION			
W.	L.	Pct.	
Minneapolis	51	25	.671
St. Paul	47	27	.635
Toledo	44	28	.611
Milwaukee	31	38	.449
Kansas City	39	37	.448
Columbus	29	41	.414
Indianapolis	41	44	.413
Louisville	25	48	.342

NORTHERN ASSOCIATION			
W.	L.	Pct.	
Muscatine	30	16	.652
Elgin	31	19	.620
Kankakee	31	20	.608
Jacksonville	25	25	.500
Decatur	24	25	.490
Freeport	22	25	.468
Sterling	21	25	.467
Clinton	10	39	.204

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION			
W.	L.	Pct.	
Quincy	37	20	.649
Ottumwa	35	23	.603
Hannibal	33	24	.579
Galesburg	31	27	.534
Keokuk	27	27	.500
Monmouth	26	32	.448
Kewanee	19	34	.358
Burlington	19	40	.322

CENTRAL LEAGUE			
W.	L.	Pct.	
South Bend	36	20	.643
Fort Wayne	34	22	.607
Terre Haute	26	25	.510
Grand Rapids	28	28	.500
Evansville	27	29	.482
Dayton	26	28	.481
Wheeling	21	33	.389
Zanesville	21	34	.382

ILLINOIS-MISSOURI LEAGUE			
W.	L.	Pct.	
Pekin	31	16	.660
Beardstown	30	18	.625
Canton	26	24	.520
Clinton	25	24	.510
Macomb	24	27	.471
Lincoln	10	37	.213

RESULTS YESTERDAY.
THREE-EYE LEAGUE.
Rock Island, 5; Davenport, 2.
Springfield, 3; Bloomington, 2.
Danville, 7; Peoria, 1.
Dubuque, 3; Waterloo, 4.

AMERICAN LEAGUE.
Chicago, 0; St. Louis, 2.
Cleveland, 8; Detroit, 3.
Philadelphia, 2-4; New York, 0-3.
Washington, 2; Boston, 1.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.
St. Louis, 0; Chicago, 2.
New York, 6; Brooklyn, 6-6.
Boston, 2-5; Philadelphia, 6-6.
Pittsburg, 1; Cincinnati, 4.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.
Milwaukee, 3; Indianapolis, 1.
St. Paul, 6; Minneapolis, 8.

WESTERN LEAGUE.
Sioux City, 8; Wichita, 7.
Des Moines, 9; St. Joseph, 6.
Omaha, 2; Denver, 4.
Lincoln, 9; Topeka, 8.

CENTRAL LEAGUE.
Evansville, 1; Terre Haute, 0.
Fort Wayne, 4; Dayton, 5.
Zanesville, 4-2; Wheeling, 0-1 (second game seven innings).

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION.
Keokuk, 0; Ottumwa, 2.
Quincy, 1; Kewanee, 2.
Hannibal, 1; Galesburg, 0.
Monmouth, 5; Burlington, 3.

WISCONSIN-ILLINOIS LEAGUE.
Racine, 6; Aurora, 5.
Appleton, 10; Fond du Lac, 5.
Green Bay, 7; Oshkosh, 3.
Madison, 5; Rockford, 11.

ILLINOIS-MISSOURI LEAGUE.
Canton, 5; Macomb, 8.
Beardstown, 9; Clinton, 6.
Pekin-Lincoln, rain.

NORTHERN ASSOCIATION.
Sterling, 5; Kankakee, 6.
Jacksonville, 6; Decatur, 0.

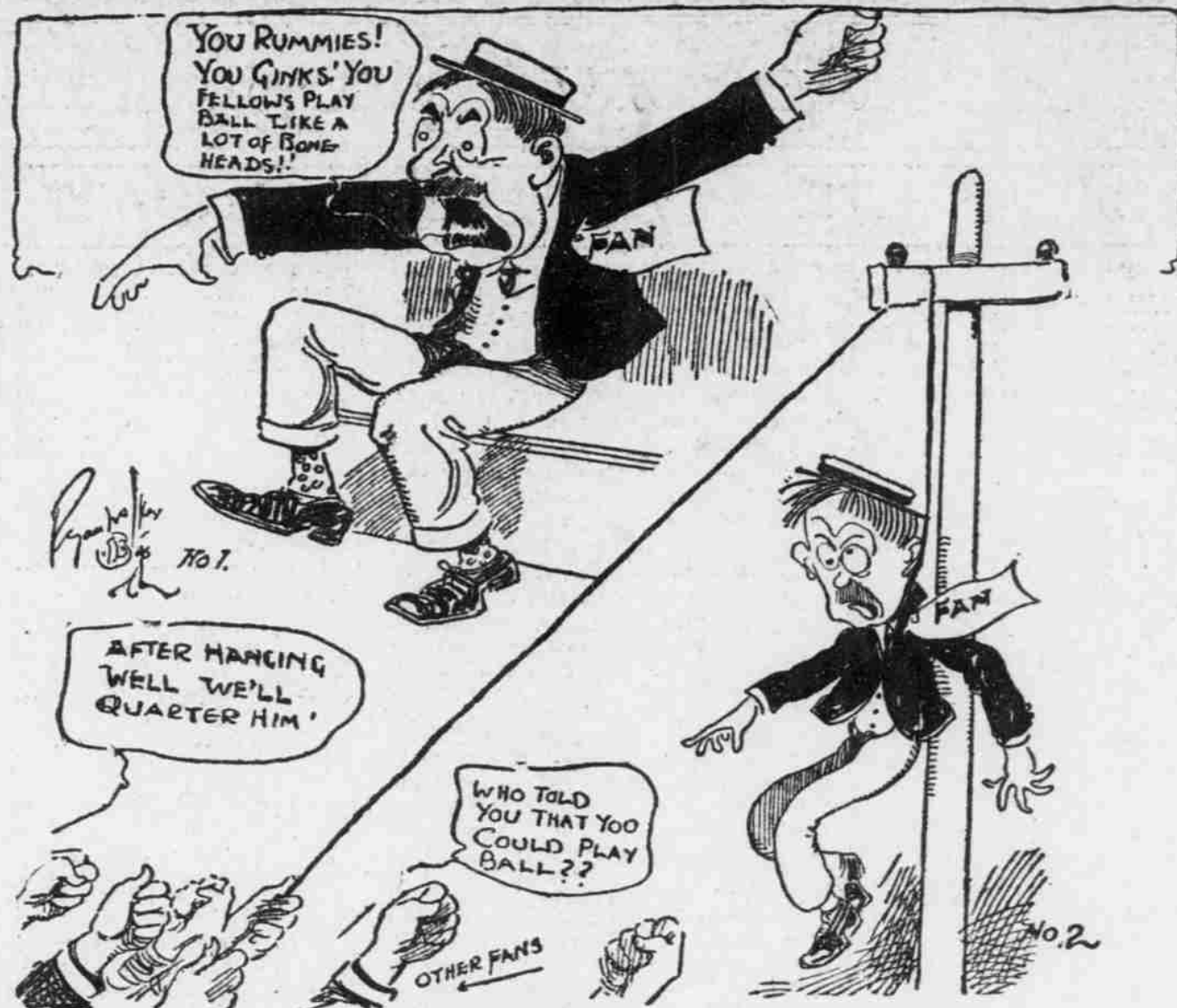
ARENA READY FOR FIGHT

(Continued from Page Nine.)

They did not fear that the authorities would step in, and carried their preparations forward without further consideration of the opposition.

Caused Consternation.
Great was the consternation, therefore, when Governor Gillett, when the actual erection of the arena had been begun, and everything was considered settled, announced that he regarded the contest as a prize fight and not a boxing contest, and that he in accordance with the laws of California he would not permit it to be held. There

If a Fan Should Play Professional Baseball



Zephyrs From the Diamond

Outfielder Riggs of Freeport has signed with Keokuk.

Paul Hogan, Clinton pitcher, has been bought by the Boston Americans.

Marty Nye was supposed to have received the hooks. But not yet, it seems.

Bet Pa Keenan's face is redder than ever during this hot spell and with the Bloomers losing steadily.

The Beal Tailoring company announces that a pair of trousers will be given the Rock Island player hitting for the greatest number of bases in tomorrow's game.

So badly off is Davenport for players that J. R. Delaney, a traveling man who used to catch for Keithsburg, has been signed to help out for a few days.

was talk of a contest in the courts, but it was seen that this would be too long drawn out to admit of a decision in time to save the fight, and the governor making it decidedly plain that he meant what he said, and would go to all legal lengths to stop the affair, the promoters gave up, and picked the state of Nevada as their one sure stronghold.

Goldfield at first made a strong bid for the match, but accessibility was a point to be strongly considered, and Rickard and his associates finally came to believe that Reno was the proper selection. So Reno it was, and everything was switched to this town and the hurried construction of the arena begun.

The Reno arena is located a mile and a half from the center of the city, and stands where stood the arena in which the Root-Hart fight took place just four years ago. The plan is almost identical with that of the arena in San Francisco which had to be abandoned when the state intervened and caused the shift to Nevada. It is about 300 feet square and seats 20,000 approximately, and its cost was expected to exceed \$175,000.

Need a Forest.

A forest of lumber has gone into the construction of the great octagonal amphitheatre. It is so designed that every one of the spectators is insured a full view of the ring in which the battle will be fought. Looking down from the bleachers, it seems absurd to think that enough action could be compressed into that 24-foot space to keep such a horde of people interested, even for a minute.

Measured within the ropes with their padded corners, the ring is just 24 feet square. From edge to edge in each direction the raised platform is 27 feet, allowing 18 inches beyond the ropes all around. This space is left for the convenience of the seconds,

Lines are out for Catcher Wolfe, formerly with Peoria, who was under suspension.

Dick Kinsella rented out his ball grounds for Sunday to amateur teams. After doing so he wrote to the promoters of the contest insisting that they bar employees of the State Register from the park the same as he has been doing when the professional team plays at home. For a party of extreme littleness Dick has any dime museum freak that ever lived beaten 40 ways.

Outfielder Ed Jacobson of the Aurora club of the Wisconsin-Illinois league batted a ball against the Durham Tobacco company's bull sign on June 12 and will receive a check for \$50 the next time Aurora goes to Rockford, which is July 5. For home runs the company gives five pounds of Durham tobacco, but so far no rewards have been made on the local grounds.

who must spring into the ring between rounds to fan ad wash and encourage their warring chieftains.
Below the edge of the platform runs a narrow bench upon which are located the telegraph instruments which will click the story of the battle around the world. Here also are the telephones with metallic head-dresses attached, through which the thousands on the outside will hear of the progress of the fight via the bulletin boards. Back of this bench are several others, providing in all for 100 newspaper men.

Like Spokes of Wheel.

From this lever around the ring the sections radiate outward and upward like spokes of a wagon wheel. There are eight of these wedge-shaped sections, and each row of seats is five inches higher than the one in front, the last row rising 35 feet from the ground level. The seats do not run one behind the other, soldier-fashion, but alternate so that the man behind looks down on the ring between the heads of the two directly in front of him. By this arrangement the ring will be flanked by a sloping wall of faces and staring eyes, circling the fighters on all sides to a height of 30 feet. There will be no spaces and lines between them, just a solid wall of faces glaring down at the white square.

Between the press seats and the bleachers there is a gentle slope upon which approximately 5,000 chairs are grouped. Here the aristocrats will sit at their ease—men to whom a \$50 seat for an afternoon's sport is little out of the ordinary. The 5,000 will be on a lower level than the ring, and will look upward at the fighters.

Wire Fences Run.

Through the bleacher section wire fences have been run, marking off the zones of financial standing. First behind the chairs come rows of seats

HOW TO MAKE AUTO TIRES LAST

A facetious automobile driver said that the best way to make tires last is not to use them. He wasn't quite right. When a car is standing in a garage for any great length of time it should be jacked from the floor so that the weight of the vehicle may not damage the rubber. To insure a longer life for tires be careful in applying the brakes. If the machine is caused to skid the tire may be torn. Avoid operating the car on a flat tire. Remove the casing. It will cost less to repair damage to the rim. The latter will not suffer if it can be bound with a rope. It is well to have extra valves in the repair kit. Keep wheels true and axles straight if you would avoid tire damage. Beware of rusty rims. They should be coated with graphite before tires are applied. Grease and oil do tires no good. They should be cleaned with gasoline, but care taken to see that it dries immediately. Turn corners slowly. When there are many passengers aboard there is a great

strain on the tires. If the tires rub the curb they become worn. Keep out of street car tracks. Steel rails cut the tires.

Always apply the gauge to know that there is sufficient air. In applying the clutch do it in such a manner that the car won't start with a jerk. Jerking parts rubber from the fabric, and the thread of the tire is apt to be torn. Remember to use talcum in the casing for changes or a new tube. Water, if allowed to creep between the tire and the rim, rots the fabric and rusts the rim. Shun fresh laid cross stone roads. If these thoroughfares must be traversed, go at a slow speed. Avoid pinching the inner tube by taking such obstructions as railroad tracks, bridges and street crossovers at an angle.

Vulcanize small holes and cuts before they become larger. Always carry an extra casing, two extra tubes, a repair outfit and a pump. Many drivers keep the extra tube under the seat with other paraphernalia. Pack it away carefully. High speed is always injurious to tires.

walk surrounds the arena. It leads to the exits, and these are so placed that the flow of the crowd will be well distributed. There is no central point of access at which crowding thousands may aim, enhancing the danger common to all crowds of panic and stampede.

Beneath the bleachers are the quarters of the fighters, the dressing rooms in which they will don, or rather expose, their fighting togs. The two camps are separated by the width of the arena, and a short aisle, kept clear of other traffic, will be reserved for each man and his followers when they make their progress to the battle ground.

Unusual precautions have been taken to prevent disorder of any kind. There will be several platoons of guards scattered through the aisles, and among the audience. Every entrance and exit will be supervised to prevent crowding, and plain clothes men will be scattered everywhere.

AMATEUR BALL

The Sextons and the Thornbloom Tigers have arranged to play at Island City park Monday afternoon, and as the Islanders will be away on that date it is expected that the amateur game will receive more than the ordinary attention. Both the Sextons and the Thornbloom Tigers, one of the best teams in Moline. The game will be played on the Tiger grounds in South Moline. Monday the local boys are to play at Coal Valley, the game being in connection with the Fourth of July celebration which is to be held in that village. Coal Valley has a fast aggregation, but the Bennetts believe that

Tomorrow afternoon the Rock Island Bennetts, claimants to the city championship, will go to Moline and play the Thornbloom Tigers, one of the best teams in Moline.

held at \$20, \$25 and \$30 each. Then come the \$15 seats, the \$10 rows in great number, and finally the gallery gods, perched high above the ground at \$5 per perch.
Behind these highest seats a broad

TWO PENNANTS FOR THE NORTHERN ASSN.

Muscatine Will Get First—League Will Start Anew July 8 With Six Clubs.

Muscatine is an unexpected pennant winner in the Northern association. At a meeting at Jacksonville yesterday it was voted to reorganize at a meeting in Chicago July 7 and proceed under a new schedule for the remainder of the season with six clubs, Clinton and Freeport being out. Muscatine, being on top now, claims the first pennant. Judging by the nature of the notices printed in the Decatur newspapers that city will not go very far after July 4, for it has been clearly shown that the city does not want Class C ball.

their record thus far this season gives them reason to believe that they will at least make a creditable showing.

BASEBALL POINTERS.

"Walter Johnson has more natural ability than any other pitcher in the game," opines Hughie Jennings.

"Batters are improving, not pitchers deteriorating," is the way President Lynch explains the heavy hitting.

Duffy Lewis is playing wonderful ball for the Boston Americans. He's the California recruit who practiced with the Reds at Hot Springs.

Pittsburg has the best fielding club in the National league, but the pitchers are not going good, and the batting of the Pirates is a little weak this year.

Christy Mathewson is having trouble with his left wrist. He says he doesn't remember having hurt it in any way, but it is stiff and painful. Although it doesn't affect his pitching, it does his batting.



If You

Like snap and vim aplenty in clothes that gracefully drape your figure—

If You

Like style and individuality in distinctive garments that have all the little personal touches supplied by the handicraft of experts—

If You

Like all the permanent shapeliness, serviceability and economy afforded by clothing built in the latest mode, in the newest and most attractive patterns—

Then You

Will call at the Busy Corner.

Sextons

We Give S. & H. Green Stamps.